

**REMARKS**

Formerly withdrawn claims 37-40 have been re-instated. Claims 1-40 remain in the application.

Claim 1 has now been amended in the manner set forth at the interview dated June 2, 2004. No new matter is added. The amendments are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the interview dated June 2, 2004, it was agreed that insertion in Claim 1 of "at and" after --pressure--, and "at the puncture wound" after --vessel--, would overcome the outstanding §103 rejection based on Bell (U.S. Patent No. 6,234,980), and the other cited references.

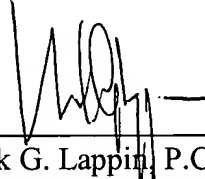
**CONCLUSION**

On the basis of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims 1-40 are in condition of allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/4/04

  
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